United Nations S/2002/759

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 15 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The wrap-up session of the Security Council under the presidency of the Syrian Arab Republic was held on 28 June 2002. With reference to my note verbale dated 25 June 2002 (S/2002/701), it was agreed that after the wrap-up session, and if appropriate, the presidency might prepare a summary paper on the main points raised at the wrap-up session.

The summary paper is attached (see annex). The purpose of the paper is to indicate the areas and suggestions for follow-up action. It is not meant to be exhaustive on the issues raised, but for use as a resource to improve the work of the Security Council, both procedural and substantive.

I would be grateful if the contents of the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of members of the Council and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mikhail **Wehbe**
Ambassador

02-48232 (E) 170702 170702

Annex to the letter dated 15 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Wrap-up meeting on the work of the Security Council for the month of June 2002, held on 28 June 2002

Points concerning the wrap-up meeting of the Council

Some members said that the holding of wrap-up meetings to assess the work of the Council was a matter of importance and that it would be useful to continue the practice.

A number of speakers said that they saw no need to hold such wrap-up meetings every month.

Some speakers stressed that it was important to translate delegations' observations on the working methods of the Council into rules for the future work of the Council, because this practice would have no point unless the numerous observations were taken into account.

In general, a number of speakers emphasized the importance of holding an increased number of open meetings of the Council at which Member States could present their views on the issues on the Council's agenda.

The situation in Afghanistan

Speakers expressed their satisfaction at the discussions that had taken place in the Council during the month of June on the situation in Afghanistan. They mentioned, in particular, the Council's sustained monitoring of the meetings of the Loya Jirga, inasmuch as they constituted a fundamental advance towards the achievement of peace and stability in the country. In the context of the security situation in Afghanistan, a number of representatives spoke of how to deal with the security issue outside Kabul. A number of speakers also welcomed the efforts being made by the International Security Assistance Force to enable the Loya Jirga to hold its meetings in a peaceful atmosphere. They also emphasized that the security situation in Afghanistan must remain a priority on the agenda of the Security Council. The speakers stressed that Security Council resolution 1401 (2002) was clear evidence of support for the peace process in Afghanistan and for the implementation of the Bonn Agreement generally.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Many speakers said that the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region had been timely, since it had preceded the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and had enabled members to become acquainted at close hand with the actual situation.

Speakers expressed their concern that the situation remained tense, particularly in Kisangani; the Council must exert every effort to impose respect for its resolutions on the parties concerned.

Speakers agreed that the Council, through its handling of the various developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, had sent a clear message to the parties to the conflict to ensure the holding of a comprehensive dialogue and also to guarantee the safety of the members of MONUC.

Speakers emphasized the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Middle East

A number of speakers said that the Council had difficulty in dealing with the topic of the Middle East and that the Council had held many meetings for the purpose of discussing the situation in the region.

A number of speakers welcomed the opportunity afforded by Farouk Al-Shara', Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, presiding over the Council and being able to hear from him directly about the Syrian position on political developments in the region, and they commended the useful and constructive discussion held during the meeting.

A number of Council members spoke of the need to mobilize all efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Representatives referred to the Arab peace initiative endorsed by the Beirut Summit and the work being done by the quadripartite committee, as well as to the statement by the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush.

Speakers stressed the need for the Security Council to assume its full responsibilities with regard to the Middle East. Some speakers spoke of the urgent need for the convening of meetings at which Council members could exchange views on opportunities and prospects for activating the Middle East peace process on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Somalia

There was general agreement that it had been a long time since the Council had discussed the situation in Somalia. The suffering of the Somali people was still continuing, because the problem remained unresolved.

The view was generally expressed that the Council must deal with the situation in Somalia more effectively.

A number of Council members spoke of the importance of implementing Security Council resolutions relating to the implementation of the arms embargo imposed on Somalia.